



Thank you Your Excellency.

Chair, first, let me convey to you and members of the Commission, greetings from my Government and the people of Solomon Islands. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present to you the case of our country, Solomon Islands.

I have travelled three days to come to New York, in order to have this audience with you, and to reaffirm my Government and our people's commitment to build and maintain peace, both at home and globally.

This is particularly poignant given the recent violence in London and Manchester in Great Britain. The people of Solomon Islands join peace-loving citizens of our global community in condemning such violence. We reiterate our commitment to peace.

Chair, Solomon Islands has experienced conflicts. Given that experience, we are committed to ensuring that our country does not slide back into conflict. We reiterate our commitment to peace.

continue to build and strengthen our efforts to achieve sustainable peace. The UN, AU, and EC has a wealth of knowledge and experience that can help Solomon Islands in its peace building efforts.

Chair, Solomon Islands is a nation with a population of about **893,333**. We are a multiethnic country and we speak more than 100 different languages. It is an archipelago of six major islands and over 333 smaller islands scattered over 1,000 nautical miles in the southwestern Pacific Ocean.

In the late 1990s and mid-2000s, Solomon Islands experienced internal conflicts. It was the result of a complex set of interrelated issues that include land, rapid rural to urban migration, increasing squatter settlements in major urban centers. Especially, the

illustrated by the fact that five of our police officers currently participate in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur, Sudan.

* We have nominated another eight police officers to be considered for peacekeeping duties. This is important to our peacebuilding effort, particularly in sharing of experiences and lessons learned when our police officers are on assignment, or when returned to duty at home.

Chair, I cannot emphasize enough that, whilst UNAMS has been very successful, the process of post-conflict rebuilding cannot stop with the departure of UNAMS. Like other countries in post-conflict

Building programme has also facilitated peace dialogues in a number of our provinces.

The programme will also be facilitating a national

development. This is important because land has been a central factor in conflicts in Solomon Islands.

Another factor that impedes economic development and the effective delivery of services, and therefore increasing opportunities for conflict, is corruption. My Government has responded to this by drafting an Anti-Corruption bill, accompanied by a National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The bill will be tabled in parliament in the near future.

Climate change is another issue that could potentially trigger conflicts. Solomon Islands, like other Pacific Island countries, is at the forefront of the impacts of climate change. So far, we have already lost five islands as a result of sea level rise. We now have the burden of relocating people to other parts of country, mostly in and around urban centers that are already crowded.

Such relocations could cause conflicts as people compete for land and other resources. We have developed and implement adaptation programmes to mitigate the impact of climate change and natural disasters.

But, we acknowledge that climate change is a global challenge that will also require global solutions. Solomon Islands is therefore committed to the Paris Agreement. Climate change is not just an

environmental issue. It is also an economic, political, cultural and legal issue that has implications for sustainable peace.

This week, during the Ocean Conference, you will hear from our colleagues from other Pacific island countries about the significance of the ocean to our countries. The vast Pacific ocean is a source of revenue, food, security and identity for our island countries.

It defines, connects and feeds us. We therefore need to conserve, maintain and sustainably use the ocean, and its resources.